

MANAGING A LAYERED HIERARCHICAL DATA SET

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention relates to managing a layered hierarchical data set.

According to one or more embodiments of the present invention, a hierarchical data set
has a state attribute associated with each data element in the hierarchy. When a user
accesses data element in the hierarchical data set, a sub-tree of the hierarchical data is
presented to the user. When the user operates on a data element, the state attribute of the
10 node associated with the data element is updated. Using the updated state attribute, the
entire hierarchical data set is managed so that when a user accesses the data again, it is
presented correctly.